

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A remote control apparatus that wirelessly communicates with a program selecting apparatus which stores therein pieces of reception information each of which is required for reception of a corresponding one of a plurality of programs, displays a program table, and in response to a signal transmitted from said remote control apparatus, either selects one of the plurality of programs or transmits one of the pieces of reception information that corresponds to a selected one of the programs, said remote control apparatus comprising:

a recording medium;

a transmitting unit for performing directional transmission;

an operation receiving unit, having an operational button[,]] for receiving a user operation from a user, such that the operation receiving unit regards a detection of the user pushing the operational button as a first user operation having been received and regards a detection of the operational button becoming released after the detection of the user pushing the operational button as a second user operation having been received;

a selecting unit for transmitting a selective signal for selecting one of the programs according to the first user operation from the program selecting apparatus via said transmitting unit;

a requesting unit for transmitting, to the program selecting apparatus via said transmitting unit, a signal for requesting a piece of reception information that corresponds to the selected program, when the first user operation has been received;

a reception information receiving unit for receiving and recording, onto said recording medium, the piece of reception information transmitted from the program selecting apparatus;

a forwarding unit for transmitting via said transmitting unit the piece of reception information recorded on said recording medium after the second user operation has been received; and

an informing unit operable to inform the user that the operational button is allowed to be released, the informing unit informing the user when the reception information receiving unit has completed recording the piece of reception information onto said recording medium.

Claim 2 (Cancelled)

Claim 3 (Previously Presented) The remote control apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said transmitting unit performs each of the transmissions by transmitting an infrared ray.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented) The remote control apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said forwarding unit transmits the piece of reception information recorded on said recording medium to a program recording apparatus that is for receiving and recording a program that corresponds to the piece of reception information, upon receiving a piece of reception information;

said remote control apparatus further comprises

a signal format storing unit that pre-stores therein signal format information which indicates, in correspondence with pieces of identification information for identifying a plurality of types of program recording apparatuses, a plurality of remote control signal formats which are to be used for a purpose of presetting recording of each program and which the plurality of types of program recording apparatuses are capable of receiving respectively, and

said forwarding unit comprises:

an identification information obtaining unit for transmitting via said transmitting unit, to the program recording apparatus to which the piece of reception information is to be transmitted, a signal for requesting a piece of identification information that identifies a type of the program recording apparatus, and to subsequently receive the piece of identification information from the program recording apparatus, when the second user operation has been received;

a signal format specifying unit for specifying a remote control signal format that corresponds to the type of program recording apparatus identified with the received piece of identification information, based on the signal format information; and

an organizing unit for organizing the piece of reception information to be in the specified remote control signal format and transmit the organized piece of reception information to the program recording apparatus.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented) The remote control apparatus of Claim 4, wherein:

the program selecting apparatus receives and stores therein, for each program scheduled to be broadcast, a piece of reception information broadcasted and a piece of program related information broadcasted and made up of items related to the program, and transmits a piece of program related information that corresponds to the selected program in addition to the piece of reception information;

said remote control apparatus further comprises a utilized item information storing unit that stores therein utilized item information which indicates, in correspondence with the pieces of

identification information, at least one of the items which are within the pieces of program related information and can be utilized by each of the types of program recording apparatuses;

said forwarding unit comprises a utilized item specifying unit for specifying at least one of the items within the pieces of program related information which can be utilized by the type of program recording apparatus identified with the received piece of identification information, based on the utilized item information; and

said organizing unit extracts the at least one specified items out of pieces of program related information recorded on said recording medium, organizes the extracted items and the piece of reception information to be in the specified remote control signal format, and transmits the organized items and piece of reception information to the program recording apparatus.

Claim 6 (Cancelled)

Claim 7 (Cancelled)

Claim 8 (Previously Presented) The remote control apparatus of Claim 1, wherein:

every time the first user operation has been received, said requesting unit transmits, to the program selecting apparatus, the signal for requesting a piece of reception information that corresponds to a selected program;

said reception information receiving unit receives and records, onto said recording medium, pieces of reception information that correspond to selected programs respectively, and have been transmitted from the program selecting apparatus; and

every time the second user operation has been received, said forwarding unit transmits one of the pieces of reception information recorded on said recording medium.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented) The remote control apparatus of Claim 8, wherein

said remote control apparatus further comprises a recorded information displaying unit for displaying at least part of each of the pieces of reception information recorded on said recording medium in such a manner to be grouped in units of programs and arranged in a predetermined order, and

every time the second user operation has been received, said forwarding unit selects and transmits one of the pieces of reception information, according to the predetermined order.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented) The remote control apparatus of Claim 8, wherein said remote control apparatus further comprises:

an option displaying unit for displaying at least part of each of the pieces of reception information recorded on said recording medium as options for selecting at least one of the programs; and

a selection receiving unit for receiving a selection of one of the options by the user, and wherein

said forwarding unit transmits one of the pieces of reception information that corresponds to the selection that has been received by said selection receiving unit most recently when the second user operation has been received.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended) A program receiving system that includes a program selecting apparatus, a remote control apparatus, and a plurality of receiving apparatuses, wherein said program selecting apparatus comprises:

a reception storing unit for receiving and storing therein pieces of reception information each of which is broadcast and is required for reception of a corresponding one of a plurality of programs;

a program table displaying unit for displaying a program table based on the received pieces of reception information;

a program selecting unit for selecting one of the programs from the program table according to a selective signal received from said remote control apparatus that is for selecting the one of the programs; and

a reception information transmitting unit for transmitting a piece of reception information that corresponds to the selected program to said remote control apparatus, upon receiving a request signal for requesting the piece of reception information from said remote control apparatus,

said remote control apparatus comprises:

a recoding medium;

a transmitting unit for performing directional transmission;

an operation receiving unit, having an operational button[[,]] for receiving a user operation from a user, such that the operation receiving unit regards a detection of the user pushing the operational button as a first user operation having been received and regards a detection of the operational button becoming released after the detection of the user pushing the operational button as a second user operation having been received;

a selecting unit for wirelessly transmitting to said program selecting apparatus, the selective signal for selecting the one of the programs according to the first user operation via said transmitting unit;

a requesting unit for wirelessly transmitting₄ to said program selecting apparatus via said transmitting unit, the request signal for requesting the piece of reception information that corresponds to the selected program₃ when the first user operation has been received;

a reception information receiving unit for receiving and recording, onto said recording medium, the piece of reception information transmitted from said program selecting apparatus;

a forwarding unit for wirelessly transmitting via said transmitting unit, after the second user operation has been received, to one of said receiving apparatuses, the piece of reception information recorded on said recording medium, and each of said receiving apparatuses includes a program receiving unit for receiving a program based on the piece of reception information upon receiving the piece of reception information from said remote control apparatus; and

an informing unit operable to inform the user that the operational button is allowed to be released, the informing unit informing the user when the reception information receiving unit has completed recording the piece of reception information onto said recording medium.

Claim 12 (Cancelled)

Claim 13 (Previously Presented) The program receiving system of Claim 11, wherein:

said reception storing unit receives and stores therein, for each of programs scheduled to be broadcast, a piece of reception information and a piece of program related information being made up of items related to the program; and

said reception information transmitting unit transmits a piece of program related information that corresponds to the selected program in addition to the piece of reception information; and

each of said receiving apparatuses further comprises:

a program recording unit for recording the program received by said program receiving unit;

an identification information storing unit that pre-stores therein a piece of identification information that shows a type of said receiving apparatus; and

an identification information transmitting unit for transmitting the piece of identification information pre-stored in the identification information storing unit to the remote control apparatus, when having received from the remote control apparatus a signal for requesting a piece of identification information

the said remote control apparatus further comprises

a type information storing unit that stores therein, (i) signal format information which indicates, in correspondence with pieces of identification information for identifying a plurality of types of receiving apparatuses, a plurality of remote control signal formats which are to be used for a purpose of presetting recording of each program and which the plurality of types of receiving apparatuses are capable of receiving respectively, and (ii) utilized item information which indicates, in correspondence with the pieces of identification information, one or more of

the items which are within the pieces of program related information and are utilized by each of the types of receiving apparatus, and

said forwarding unit comprises:

an identification information obtaining unit for transmitting via said transmitting unit, to said receiving apparatus to which the piece of reception information is to be transmitted, a signal for requesting the piece of identification information that identifies a type of said receiving apparatus, and to subsequently receive the piece of identification information from said receiving apparatus when the second user operation has been received;

a signal format specifying unit for specifying a remote control signal format that corresponds to the type of receiving apparatus identified with the received piece of identification information, based on the signal format information;

a utilized item specifying unit for specifying at least one of the items within the pieces of program related information which is utilized by the type of receiving apparatus identified with the received piece of identification information, based on the utilized item information; and

an organizing unit for extracting the at least one of the specified items out of the pieces of program related information recorded on said recording medium, organize the extracted items and the piece of reception information to be in the specified remote control signal format, and transmit the organized items and piece of reception information to said receiving apparatus.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended) An information forwarding method used by a remote control apparatus for wirelessly communicating with a program selecting apparatus that stores therein pieces of reception information each of which is required for reception of a

corresponding one of a plurality of programs, displays a program table, and in response to a signal transmitted from the remote control apparatus, either selects one of the plurality of programs or transmits one of the pieces of reception information corresponding to a selected one of the programs, said information forwarding method comprising:

receiving a user operation from a user, and regarding a detection of the user pushing an operational button as a first user operation having been received and regarding a detection of the operational button becoming released after the detection of the user pushing the operational button as a second user operation having been received;

transmitting a selective signal for selecting one of the programs according to the first user operation to the program selecting apparatus via a transmitting unit that is for performing directional transmission;

transmitting, to the program selecting apparatus via the transmitting unit, a signal for requesting a piece of reception information that corresponds to the selected program, when the first user operation has been received;

receiving the piece of reception information transmitted from the program selecting apparatus and recording the received piece of reception information onto a recording medium of the remote control apparatus;

transmitting via the transmitting unit, the received piece of reception information after the second user operation has been received; and

informing the user that the operation button is allowed to be released, the user being informed that the operation button is allowed to be released when the recording of the received piece of reception information onto the recording medium of the remote control apparatus has completed recording the piece of reception information onto the recording medium.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended) A program stored on a computer-readable recording medium for causing a program selecting apparatus and a remote control apparatus to execute at least an information forwarding process, the program selecting apparatus for storing therein pieces of reception information each of which is required for reception of a corresponding one of a plurality of programs, for displaying a program table, and in response to a signal transmitted from the remote control apparatus, for either selecting one of the plurality of programs or transmitting one of the pieces of reception information corresponding to a selected one of the programs, and the remote control apparatus for wirelessly communicating with the program selecting apparatus and including a recording medium and a CPU, wherein the information forwarding process comprises:

receiving a user operation from a user, and regarding a detection of the user pushing an operational button as a first user operation having been received and regarding a detection of the operational button becoming released after the detection of the user pushing the operational button as a second user operation having been received;

transmitting a selective signal for selecting one of the plurality of programs according to the first user operation to the program selecting apparatus via a transmitting unit that is for performing directional transmission;

transmitting, to the program selecting apparatus via the transmitting unit, a signal for requesting a piece of reception information that corresponds to the selected program, when the first user operation has been received;

receiving and recording, onto the recording medium, the piece of reception information transmitted from the program selecting apparatus;

transmitting via the transmitting unit, the piece of reception information recorded on the recording medium after the second user operation has been received; and

informing the user that the operation button is allowed to be released, the user being informed that the operation button is allowed to be released when the recording of the received piece of reception information onto the recording medium of the remote control apparatus has completed recording the piece of reception information onto the recording medium.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented) The remote control apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the informing unit informs the user that the operational button is allowed to be released using a display including a message that indicates a readiness for forwarding the piece of reception information.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented) The remote control apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the informing unit informs the user that the operational button is allowed to be released using a display including a part of the piece of reception information that is to be forwarded by the forwarding unit.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented) The remote control apparatus of Claim 17, further comprising a deletion unit operable to delete the part of the piece of reception information displayed by the informing unit, after the forwarding unit has transmitted the piece of reception information.